

Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)

The CJIS is a statewide integrated criminal justice information system that has enabled automated sharing of information in a common format between State, local, and federal criminal justice agencies including the Departments of Corrections, Human Rights, Transportation, Public Safety, and Natural Resources, the Judicial Branch, the Attorney General's Office, County Attorneys, Sheriffs Offices, and local law enforcement.

Beginning in 1998, the National Governor's Association (NGA) appointed a task force to examine ways that states could more effectively use information technology (IT) to meet citizen needs and improve state government operations. The federal government, through the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, began promoting information integration for federal and State officials to find ways to promote effective cooperation between levels of government and across agency boundaries. The Crime Identification Technology Act, Public Law 105-251, authorized federal grants for states to promote the integration of justice system information and identification technology. In 2001, Iowa began exploring options for IT sharing among law enforcement agencies.

In 2003, the Governor of Iowa and the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of establishing a governance structure to guide the design, development, and implementation of a Statewide, integrated criminal justice information system. In 2004, the MOU was amended to require the 19-member CJIS Advisory Committee to create a strategic plan to guide implementation in Iowa. The strategic plan was completed August 26, 2005. The integration timeline was established over five years beginning July 1, 2005 (FY 2006). The goal of the project is to provide for the automated real-time exchange of information between various segments of the criminal justice community at the State, federal, and local levels.

Current Situation

The model Iowa created was developed based on standards recommended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Department of Justice. There are currently 83 State and local agencies, including 57 law enforcement agencies, participating in the electronic citation component of the CJIS. Ten computer servers run two parallel environments for complete redundancy; one is a test environment and the other the production environment. The average speed of data transmission is three seconds.

The benefits of the CJIS include the elimination of information errors and redundant data entry. This provides for more complete, accurate, and real-time data to members of the criminal justice community, including improved decision-making, operational efficiency, and an enhanced ability to evaluate the effectiveness of programs. In addition, all agencies that receive data electronically will realize a savings in staff time by not having to reenter information.

Listed below are a few highlights of some of the information exchanges:

- **Electronic Citations** – Allows citation information from law enforcement agencies to be electronically uploaded to the Judicial Branch in a real-time environment, eliminating the need to drive paper tickets to the courthouse to be processed. At the end of the first quarter of 2010, 65,766 citations had been processed.
- **Victim Notifications** – Whenever an offender's status changes, such as a change in the correctional facility, or parole or probation status, the victim is automatically notified.
- **Victim Transfer** – Information from county attorneys to the DOC.

More Information

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division: <http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cjip>

LSA Staff Contact: Jennifer Acton (515-281-7846) jennifer.acton@legis.state.ia.us

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- **Protective Orders** – Petitioners are notified by telephone or e-mail as soon as a petition is served. There are currently 175 protection order-related messages a day, including new orders, expiring orders, and reinstating orders.
- **Sex Offender Address Change Alerts** – Allows information to be shared between the Department of Corrections and the Division of Criminal Investigation of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) whenever a sex offender has a change of address.
- **Arrest Warrant** – Conveys arrest warrants between the courts and the Department of Public Safety.
- **Hearing Order** – Conveys information from ICIS to the County Attorney when hearings are set.
- **OWI Exchanges** – four OWI exchanges, including law enforcement to the county attorney (when an arrest is made); another carries OWI dispositions from the courts to the DOT for appropriate action on license suspension.
- **Bond Posting** – Information transferred from the Courts to the Sheriff when offenders post bond.
- **Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI)** – Orders for PSIs flow from the Courts to DOC; upon completion, the PSI is sent from the DOC back to the Courts.

Recent Issues

Senate File 2088 (Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act) reorganized IT services by requiring IT resources in State government to be moved to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The DPS will be requesting a waiver for both the CJIS Project and the Iowa System. The Iowa System provides arrest warrant and confidential investigative information. The FBI has rules specific to the sharing of information, encryption, and background checks.

Senate File 2379 (Permits to Carry Weapons Act) requires the CJIS to create an information exchange to transfer commitment order information from the Judicial Branch to the DPS and from the DPS to the FBI. This includes criminal history background checks to prevent the purchase of firearms. For proper implementation, the information must be exchanged in a real-time environment, and the CJIS provides that opportunity.

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Division of the Department of Human Rights is considering a six-year replacement cycle for the hardware and software related to CJIS. Funding for ongoing maintenance will need to be considered. Ongoing maintenance will consist of both hardware and software maintenance and annual network connectivity.

Budget Impact

The estimated completion date of the CJIS Project is June 30, 2014. The total estimated cost of the project (from all funding sources) is expected to be between \$10.0 million and \$12.0 million. As of December 10, 2010, a total of \$10.6 million has been encumbered, including \$1.9 million of federal or other funding and \$8.8 million of State resources. Of the \$8.8 million, \$7.4 million or 84.0% is Technology Reinvestment Fund dollars.

Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Funding

Amounts Encumbered as of December 10, 2010

	Source	
	Federal/Other	State
Byrne Grant	\$ 518,463	\$ 172,822
National Governor's Association (NGA) Grant	100,000	0
National Justice Information Sharing (JIS) Initiative	471,831	
National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Grant	206,100	22,900
Return on Investment Funds	0	920,414
Homeland Security Funding	363,270	0
Technology Re-investment Funds	0	7,366,384
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds	0	267,740
Other Agency Funds	227,852	0
	<u>\$ 1,887,516</u>	<u>\$ 8,750,260</u>

Note - This chart does not include any annual General Fund appropriations to CJJP for CJIS staff and support.

The estimated cost for ongoing maintenance of the current system, without equipment upgrades or the addition of new exchanges, is estimated to be approximately \$150,000 per year. Equipment upgrades and rollout of new exchanges is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million.

Award

The CJIS Project received a national award for innovation and excellence in criminal justice information sharing in August 2010 sponsored by the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Institute. The Institute recognizes technical innovation that has contributed significantly to the advancement of integration and interoperability in a justice, public safety, or homeland security program.